

**SUMMARY OF MID-GEORGIA/SOUTH GEORGIA
PUBLIC MEETING**

**GDOT Truck Lane Needs Identification Study – May 10, 2007
Macon State College – Macon, Georgia**

The first public meeting for the GDOT Truck Lane Needs Identification Study was held at Macon State College in Macon, GA on May 10, 2007, beginning at approximately 5:00 PM. Matthew Fowler, GDOT Planning, welcomed the group. He turned the floor over to Andrew Smith, Consultant Project Manager for HNTB.

Mr. Smith started the meeting by talking about the upcoming video and presentation. The video was then shown. A number of questions and answers and comments then ensued.

C: There has been a noticeable increase in trucks parking on the road in the last 4-5 years. If you go past the rest area north of Macon around 6 AM it is jam packed.

Q: Will the graphics will be available?

A: Mr. Smith responded that the graphics will be available on the website or just let us know what you need.

Q: Has any place done truck lanes?

A: No – some ports are looking at truck only roads. Southern California has considered these.

C: Can see the day coming when you can't access Atlanta. Trucks will take back roads, 83 in Forsyth. Customers are in the middle. There are some areas where trucks are not allowed that need access.

Q: What will be the requirement? Will trucks have to use them?

A: Not yet defined. Not purpose of this study. We are looking at needs, attractiveness, and benefits. Truck drivers, companies may prefer this. Doesn't point out that the cars cause some of the fatal crashes. This would help decrease that. See a benefit. Truckers know how to drive around each other.

C: Owner/operators vs. governed trucks. Need to be able to pass. That's why 2 lanes is good.

C: Like the idea, but who absorbs the cost? Will it affect taxes? Highway use tax, etc?

C: Great idea as long as the cost isn't directed towards the trucking companies to the point that it becomes too expensive to operate.

Q: How do we afford new projects when we can't afford the ones we've got?

A: That will unfold over the next several years.

C: TMS teams want the roads cleared quick – no secondary incidents.

Q: Will there be outreach done with truckers to ask their needs?

A: Yes, we have been in contact with trucking industry representatives as part of the Task Force and will continue to seek more input from the industry as the study advances.